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THE A. L. A. AND L. A. CATALOG RULES

IMPORTANT cooperative work by zealous and faithful committees has always been a chief characteristic of the A. L. A. The two editions of both the A. L. A. Catalog and the List of subject headings are marked instances, while the work of the Publishing board, growing rapidly in extent and usefulness, is really that of a standing committee.

Before the next number of the *Bulletin* is published another notable committee report will be in press and a particularly happy feature of the work of the Catalog rules committee is the international character of the Code which sums up its seven years of work. The fewer codes of catalog rules the better and it would have been especially regrettable if in lieu of the resultant joint Anglo-American code, two sets of rules should have appeared, embodying the various differences and conflicting usages which in the new code have been almost entirely harmonized. The following members of the Association have served on the Catalog rules committee since its appointment in 1901, under the chairmanship of J. C. M. Hanson of the Library of Congress: C. A. Cutter, Mrs S. C. Fairchild, W. S. Biscoe, A. H. Hopkins, T. F. Currier, Alice B. Kroeger, E. C. Richardson, Nina E. Browne.

A brief account of its work and of the steps that have led to the joint A. L. A. and L. A. Code, seems proper at this time and can best be given by printing below the statement read to the Library Association at its conference in Glasgow on September 19, 1907, by Mr Hanson, the chairman of the committee and a regularly accredited representative of the A. L. A. at the British meeting.

MR HANSON'S STATEMENT

Practical suggestions on cooperation in cataloging with its several related questions have not been wanting. I need only refer to Jewett's plan of 1852 and the papers and discussions before the first International library conference of 1877. The suggestions thus thrown out lead to further discussion. Here and there sporadic efforts have been made to carry out some of the plans proposed but without permanent results. While the American Library Association through its Publishing section had begun to issue a few printed cards as early as 1896 it was only in 1900, at the Montreal meeting, that a movement was inaugurated to provide, in the first place, a code of rules which should have the general approval of the Association; secondly, an agency to provide and distribute printed catalog cards on a scale commensurate with the needs of the average library. It was here that the Association turned to the Library of Congress as